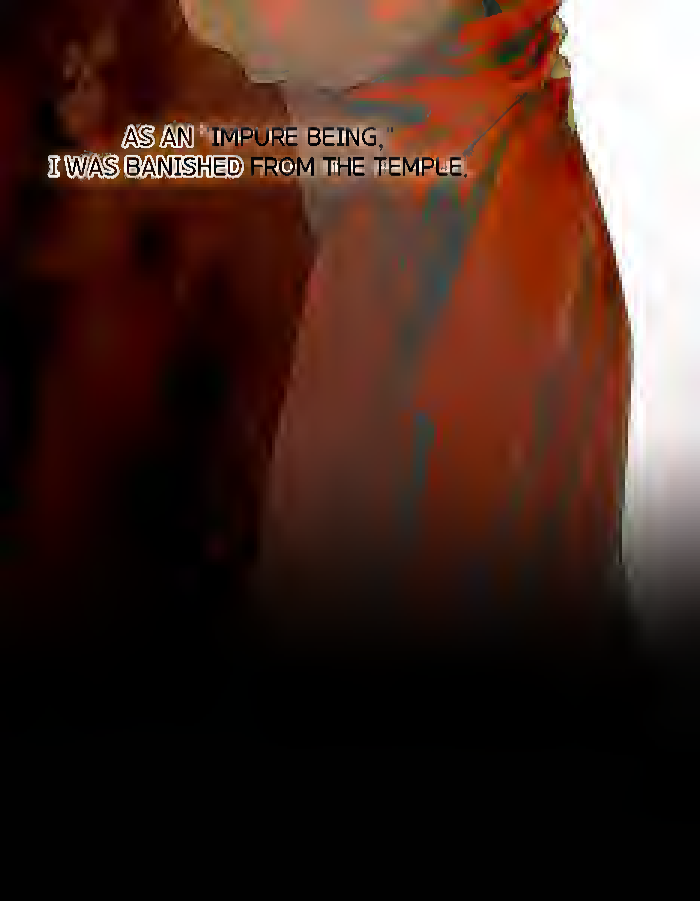
WHILE ACTING AS A KUMARI.
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
MAY BLOOD
COME OUT OF YOUR BODY.

CREAK
I HAD STARTED MY FIRST PERIOD.


AS AN "IMPURE BEING,"
I WAS BANISHED FROM THE TEMPLE.

SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
..HEY, WHAT ARE YOU..
PLEASE!
OPEN THE DOOR!!

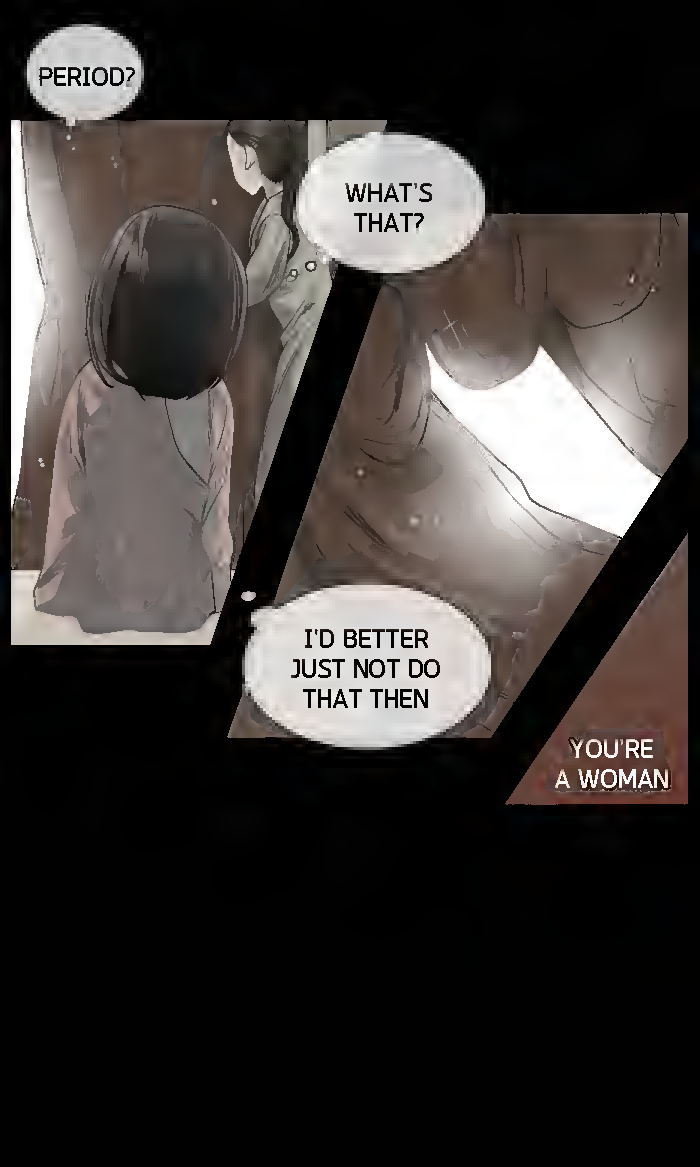
WHY...
KOONG

EVEN IF YOU GET A LITTLE SCRAPE AND YOUR FINGER
LETS OUT A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD, YOU BECOME IMPURE.

AND YOU LOSE THE RIGHT TO BE A KUMARI.
ONCE YOU START HAVING YOUR PERIOD, YOUR LIFE AS A KUMARI IS OVER.

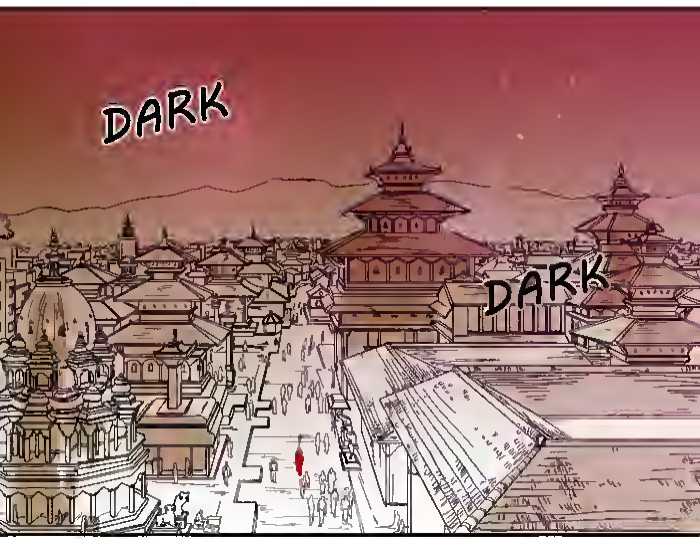
AND YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE THIS LUXURIOUS LIFE AS GODDESS
YOU'LL GO BACK TO BEING JUST A REGULAR GIRL

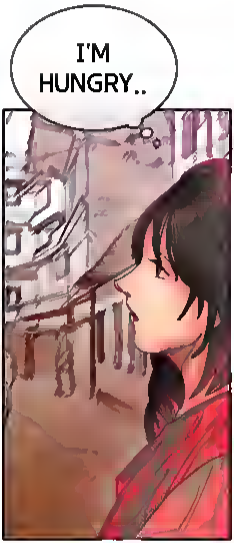
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU
CAN STOP FROM HAPPENING BY
JUST DECIDING IT.
I DIDN'T
HAVE A CLUE
HOW TO FIND MY WAY

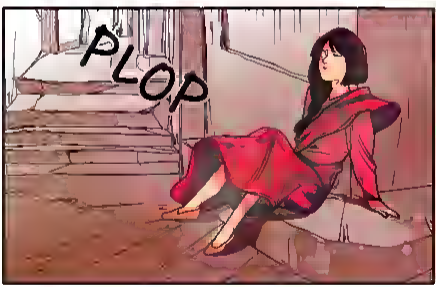

PERIOD?
WHAT'S THAT?
I'D BETTER JUST NOT DO THAT THEN
YOU'RE A WOMAN

BACK HOME.

ART / STORY BY HAGA

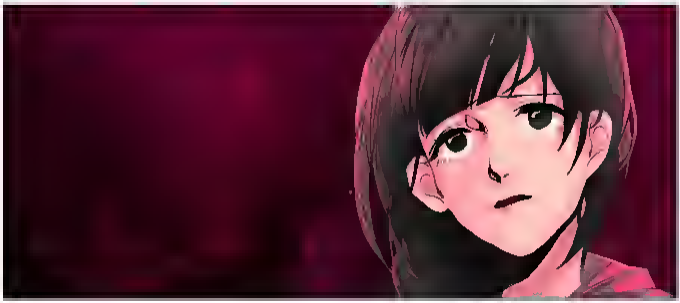

DARK
DARK

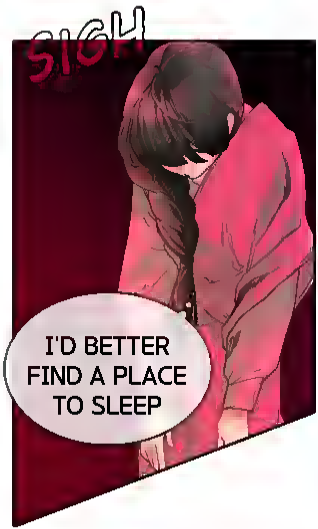

I'M
HUNGRY..


PLOP

I'M SO COLD, AND TIRED.
I WANNA REST.
I WANT MY BED.

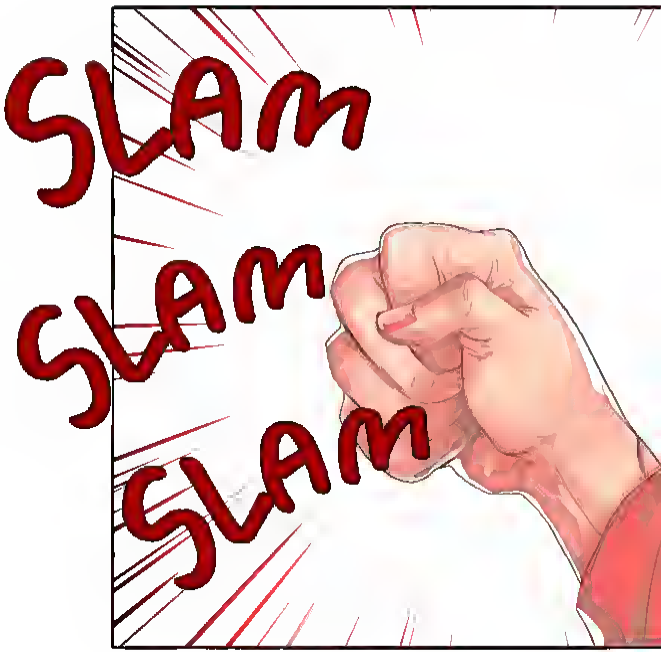
I'VE NEVER HAD TO WALK AROUND THIS MUCH BEFORE..
I'M USED TO PEOPLE CARRYING ME AROUND



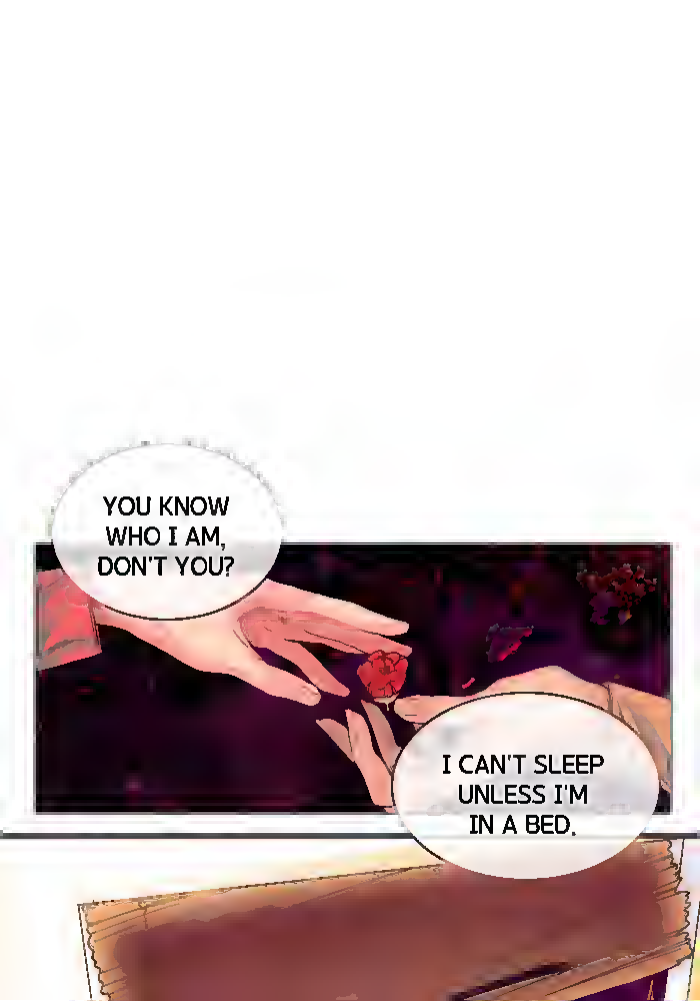

SIGH
I'D BETTER FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP

I'LL GO BACK TOMORROW AND PUNISH THEM FOR KICKING ME OUT.

OPEN THE DOOR!



WHO THE HELL IS MAKING ALL THIS RACKET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?!
SHOUT
IS THE BED CLEAN?
WHAT?


YOU KNOW WHO I AM, DON'T YOU?
I CAN'T SLEEP UNLESS I'M IN A BED.

LET ME IN.
HEY..

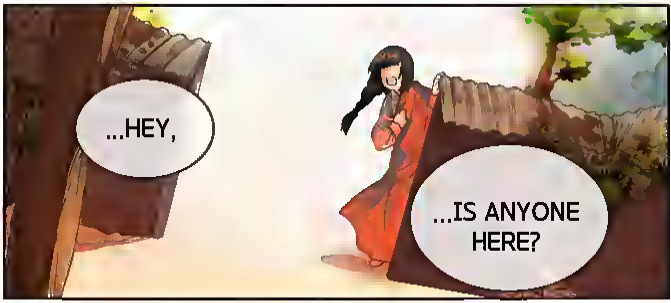
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR DAMN MIND?!

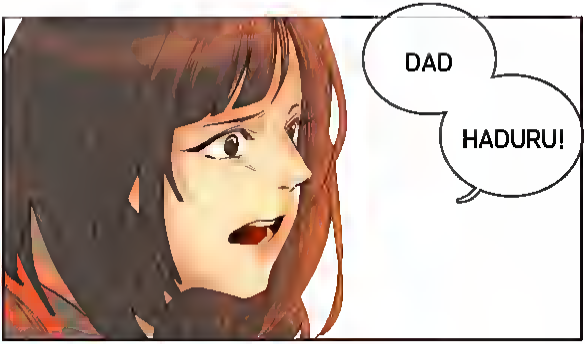
GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
SLAM!

...?
HUH?
GRRR
IF YOU DON'T LET ME BACK IN RIGHT NOW,
I'LL NEVER BLESS THIS HOUSE FOR YOU AGAIN!!

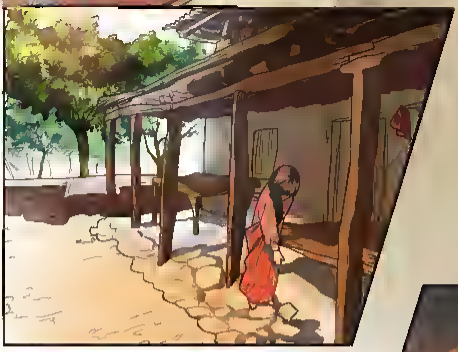
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE BLESSING OF MY GAZE OR MY TOUCH
IN THIS HOUSE EVER AGAIN!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...
AT THE TIME, I STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANT TO BE ABANDONED

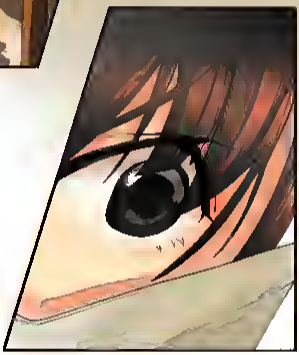
OR TO GET THE
COLD SHOULDER.





...
...
TUK
M-MOM...





19xx, xx,xx

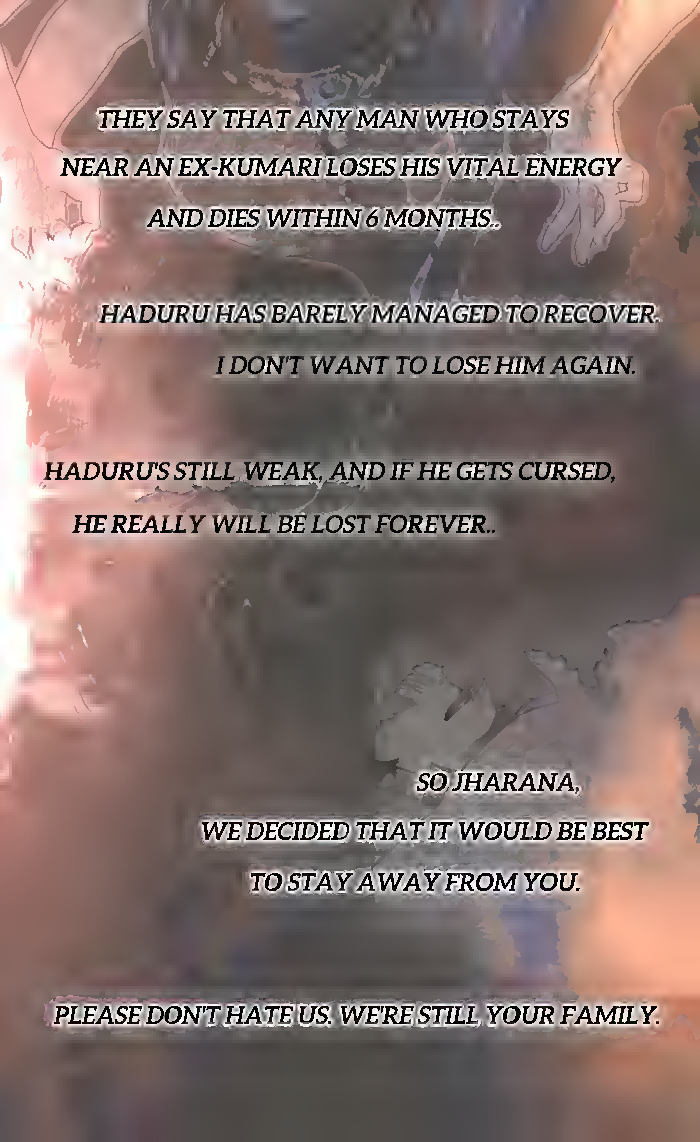
JHARANA,

I HOPE YOU FIND THIS LETTER ALRIGHT.

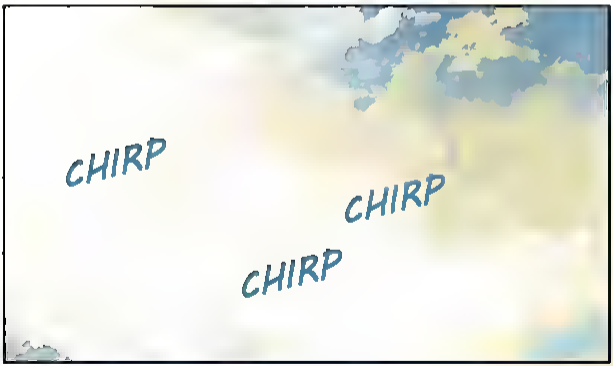
AS YOU KNOW, WE CANNOT MEET AGAIN.

YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT IF WE STAY WITH SOMEONE IMPURE,

IT CURSES THE WHOLE FAMILY.

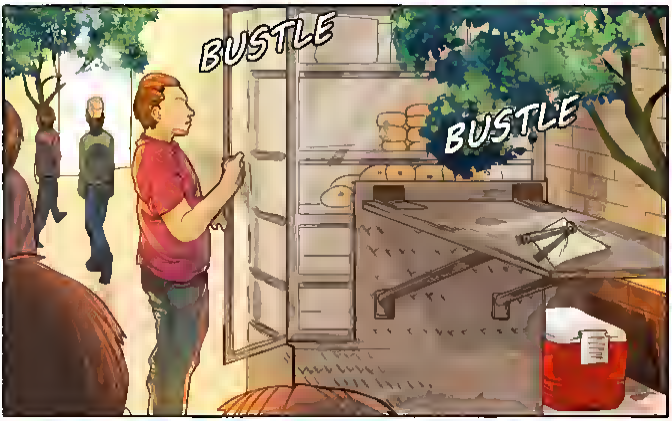

THEY SAY THAT ANY MAN WHO STAYS
NEAR AN EX-KUMARI LOSES HIS VITAL ENERGY
AND DIES WITHIN 6 MONTHS..
HADURU HAS BARELY MANAGED TO RECOVER.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM AGAIN.
HADURU'S STILL WEAK, AND IF HE GETS CURSED,
HE REALLY WILL BE LOST FOREVER..
SO JHARANA,
WE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST
TO STAY AWAY FROM YOU.
PLEASE DON'T HATE US. WE'RE STILL YOUR FAMILY.

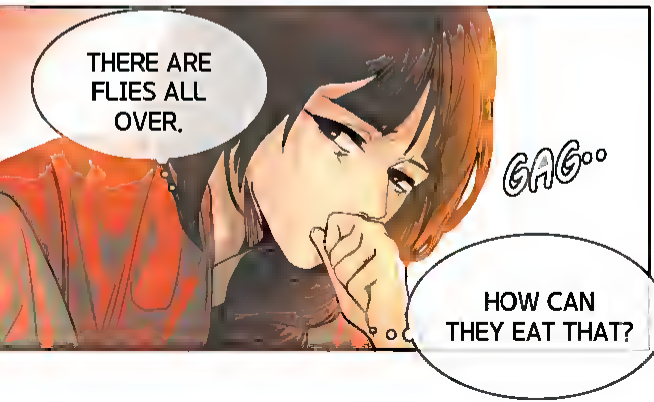
WE LOVE YOU.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

... ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO..
CRUMPLE

SO HUNGRY..

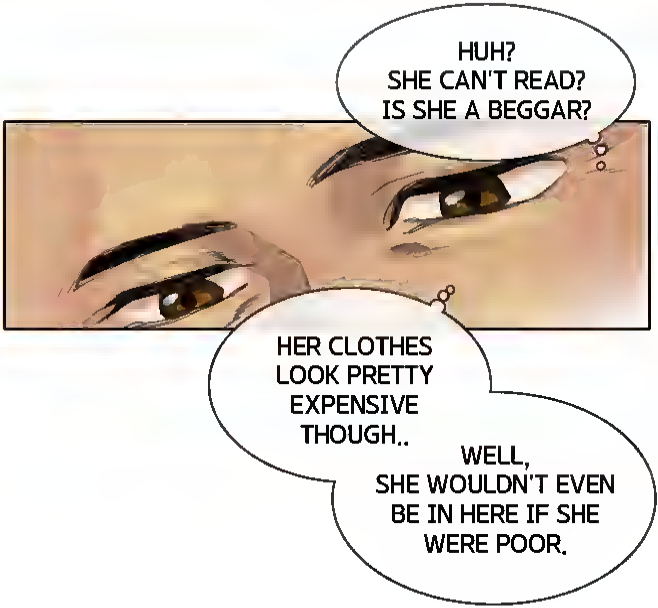



THERE ARE FLIES ALL OVER.
GAG..
HOW CAN THEY EAT THAT?

HEY.. GIMME SOME OF WHATEVER THAT PERSON WAS HOLDING JUST NOW.

YOUNG WOMEN NOWADAYS.. NO MANNERS..

IF YOU'LL HAVE A SEAT, I'LL BRING YOU A MENU, MISS.
I CAN'T READ, SO JUST BRING ME WHATEVER THAT PERSON HAD.
...?

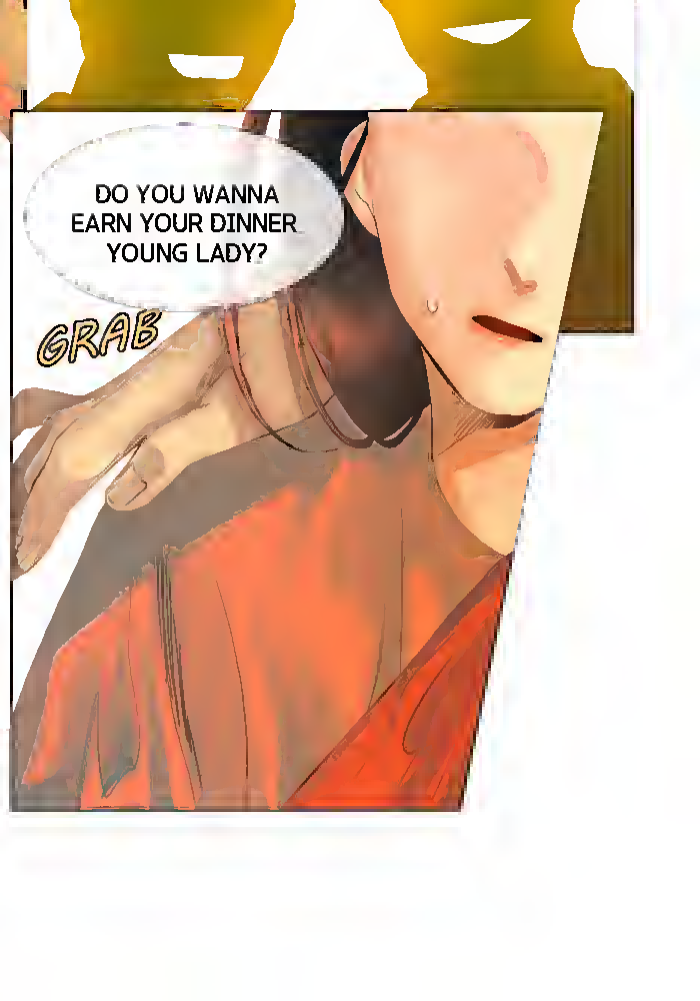

HUH?
SHE CAN'T READ?
IS SHE A BEGGAR?
HER CLOTHES LOOK PRETTY EXPENSIVE THOUGH..
WELL,
SHE WOULDN'T EVEN BE IN HERE IF SHE WERE POOR.

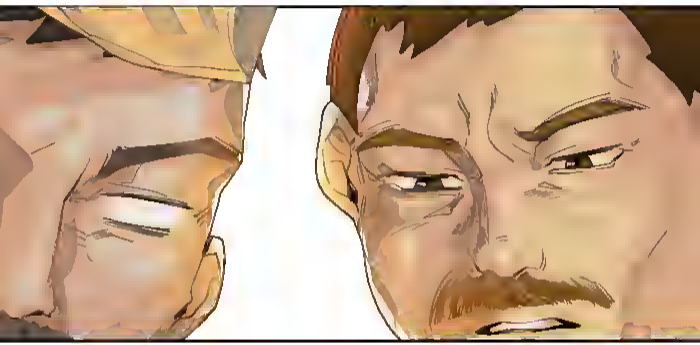
YOU CAN'T PAY?!
WHISK
HOW DARE YOU COME INTO MY RESTAURANT, STUFF YOURSELF AND THEN NOT PAY!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW EXPENSIVE THAT MEAT WAS?

I-IT WAS DINNER TIME! I WAS STARVING!
UNBELIEVABLE.. DO YOU KNOW WHAT MONEY MEANS? HUH?
YOU'VE GOTTA PAY MONEY IF YOU EAT IN A RESTAURANT!!

WHY SHOULD I PAY? I'M PROTECTING YOU!!
SHE MUST BE CRAZY. JUST GET HER OUTTA HERE.
WAVE
WAVE
STUPID GIRL.. UGH! I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP..

THINK YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PRETTY?
...?
?
HEY, WAIT A SECOND.. I HAVE AN IDEA.


DO YOU WANNA EARN YOUR DINNER YOUNG LADY?
GRAB


W-WHAT DID
SHE JUST SAY?

S-STOP IT!
I WAS A KUMARI
UNTIL A FEW DAYS
AGO!!
SHOUT
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT
I'M THE ONE WHO WAS
PROTECTING YOU?
YOU OWE ME FOOD
AND EVERYTHING!!

WAIT... THAT'S RIGHT. THE KUMARI RECENTLY GOT KICKED OUT, DIDN'T SHE?
OH CRAP... SO THIS IS REALLY HER?

GET OUT OF MY RESTAURANT!!
PULL
WHOO
W-WHAT? I'M NOT DONE HERE!
GRAB
FORGET ABOUT THE MONEY AND JUST GET OUT BEFORE YOU CURSE US ALL!
PUSH

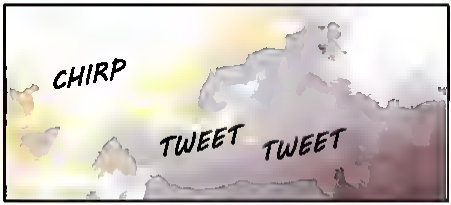
I SAID GO!!

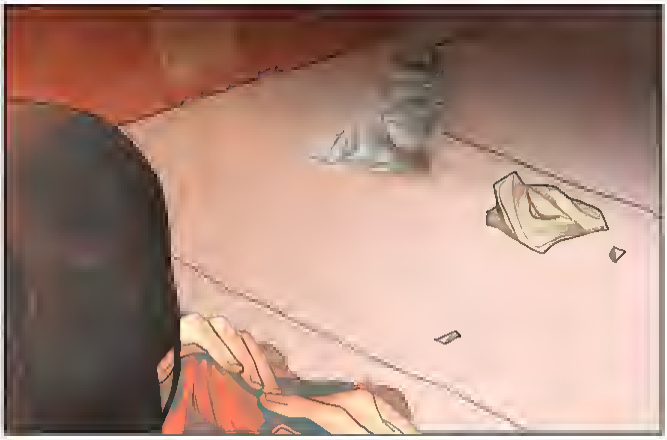
CRASH

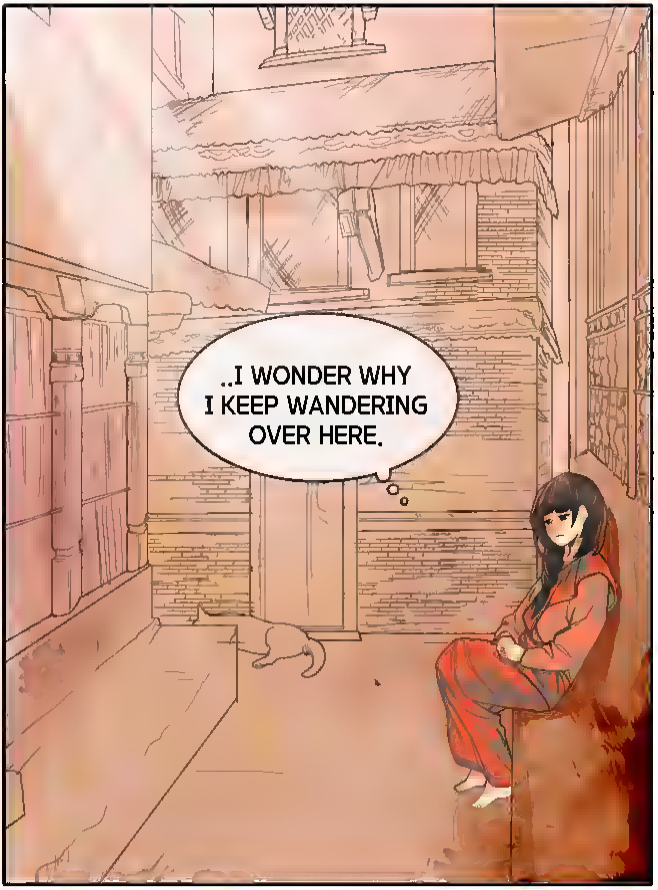
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

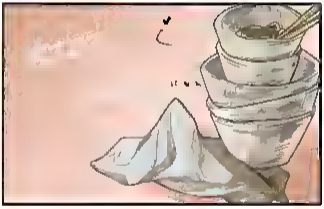
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THAT
ANYONE WHO TAKES IN AN EX-KUMARI
BECOMES IMPURE AND CURSED.

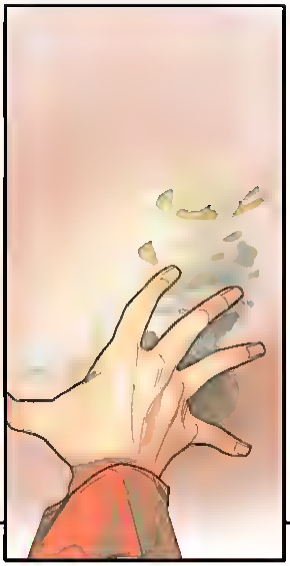
I'M SO HUNGRY
I CAN'T EVEN THINK
PROPERLY ANYMORE..
SIGH


CHIRP
TWEET
TWEET

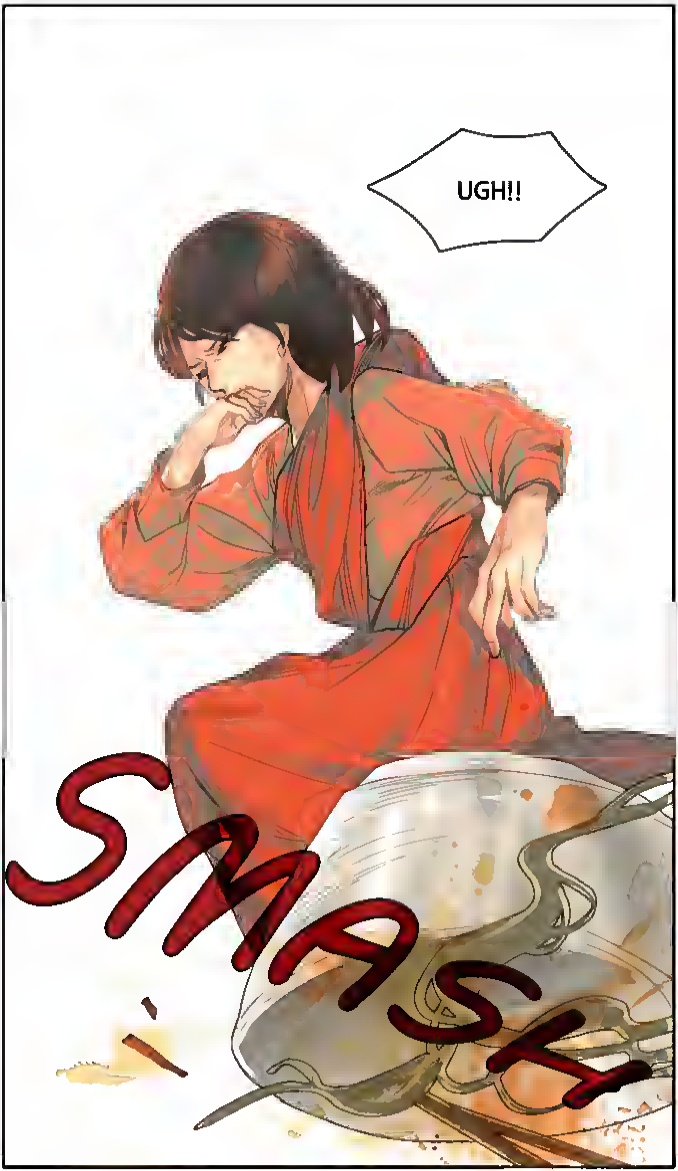



..I WONDER WHY
I KEEP WANDERING
OVER HERE.





SNIFF


UGH!!
SMASH

URGHH!
OH GOD..
WHAT IS THAT..
IT'S ALL ROTTEN.
BZZZ
BZZZ
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

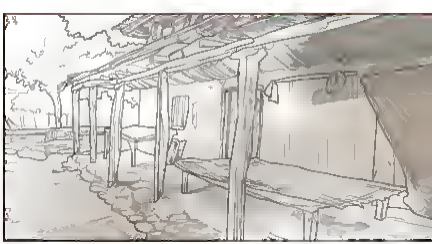
HUFF
HUFF
GRASP

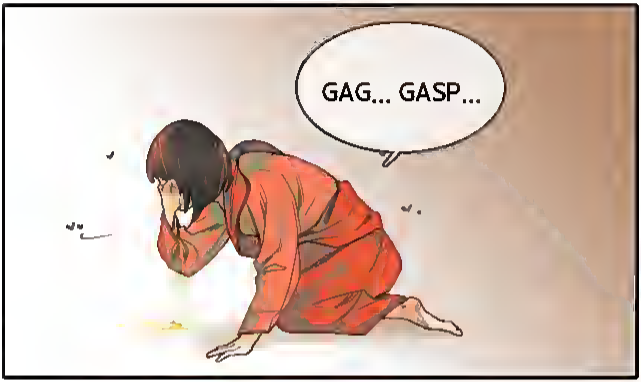
I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN, BUT HERE
UGH UH AGH
AGH...
URGH...
HUH.

THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO USED TO HELP ME.

I USED TO COME HERE AND BRING HIM FOOD.

I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER. BEFORE I BECAME A KUMARI 10 YEARS AGO...




GAG... GASP...

I REMEMBER SEEING PEOPLE
LIVING LIKE THIS.

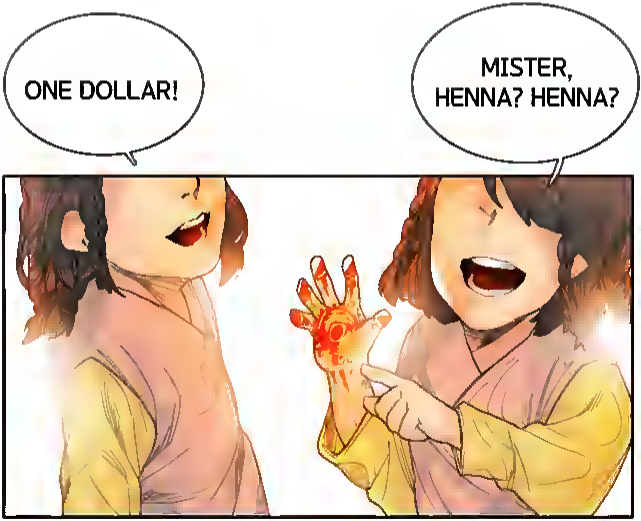
MY FAMILY...

WAS ALSO SICK AND POOR..

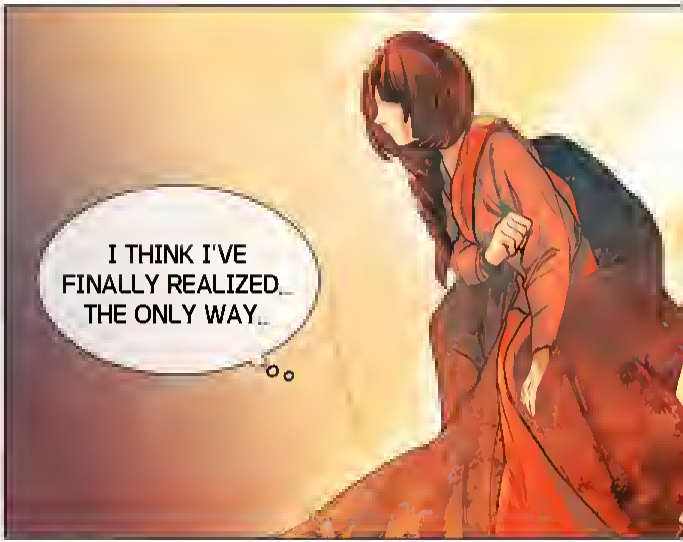
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
WHILE I WAS SERVING AS A GODDESS.

BUT WHAT I DO KNOW
IS THAT THERE'S NO GOING BACK
TO THAT TIME NOW..
I CAN'T GO BACK.

I'M ALL ALONE

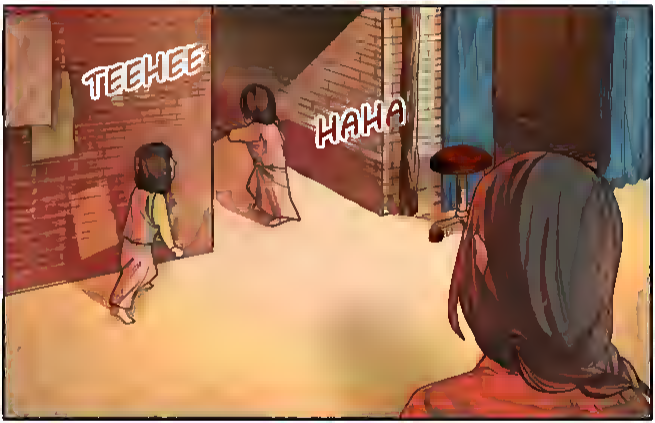

ONE DOLLAR!
MISTER, HENNA? HENNA?

NO, UM,
NO, NO MONEY
NO NO
NO MONEY?
MY HEAD
HURTS..
I GUESS BECAUSE
I SLEPT IN THE
RAIN LAST
NIGHT..


I THINK I'VE FINALLY REALIZED... THE ONLY WAY...

I'VE GOTTA..
HAVE MONEY.
I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE
TO SLEEP TONIGHT..
STAND

FOR ME TO
MAKE MONEY_
REACH


TEEHEE
HAHA

CLASH